program codes for performing at-a-glance display of a plurality of registered character strings;

program codes for allowing a character string to be selected by a user from among the displayed character strings; and

program codes for causing the selected character string to be displayed at a position pointed by a cursor.

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 31, 2002. Claims 1 to 43 are in the application, with Claim 43 having been added, and Claims 1, 16, 20, 35, 41 and 42 having been amended. Claims 1, 20, 41 and 43 are now the only independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The Abstract was objected to for an informality and a new Abstract has been provided, giving due consideration to the point noted in the Office Action. Withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

The specification has been amended to correct typographical errors noted in a review of the specification.

The drawings were objected to by the Draftsperson for allegedly containing impermissible solid black shading. Initially, Applicant notes that the Form PTO-948 (Notice Of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review) fails to list which of the drawing figures are objected to. Accordingly, Applicant is not able to determine what drawings are to be corrected. Moreover, while some of the drawings include dotted hash marks to

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exemplify touch panel keys, Applicant fails to see any solid black shading contained within any of the drawing figures that would be objectionable. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner (or the Draftsperson) provide a clear indication of those drawing figures (if any) that require correction so that Applicant can adequately respond and provide any drawing corrections that may be required.

Turning to the claims, Claims 1 to 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,991,396 (Salm) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,717,426 (Ohkado). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns character processing in, for example, a copying machine or a printer. Conventionally, when a character string, such as an address of a recipient of a transmission, such as a facsimile or email transmission, is input into a device, the address is input by a user one character at a time. For example, a user has to input each character of the recipient's email address or facsimile number by typing in the address (number) keystroke by keystroke for each character (number) of the address. As can readily be seen, this process can be time consuming for users.

The present invention addresses the foregoing by utilizing registered character strings. According to the invention, an at-a-glance display of a plurality of registered character strings is provided so that a user can select a character string from among the plurality of character strings. Once the user selects a character string, the selected character string is then displayed at a position pointed by a cursor. In other words, character strings (such as email addresses) are registered and the registered strings are displayed on a display so that, when the user selects one of the registered strings, the user can have the entire character string displayed at a position pointed by a cursor, such as a

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box on the display for inputting the recipient's address. Thus, the address is input merely by selecting a character string and pointing a cursor to the field on the display, without having to input the characters one by one. As a result, inputting a character string is performed with a simple selection and pointing process.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a character processing method, comprising the steps of performing at-a-glance display of a plurality of registered character strings, allowing a character string to be selected by a user from among the displayed character strings, and causing the selected character string to be displayed at a position pointed by a cursor.

Amended independent Claims 20 and 41, and newly added Claim 43, are apparatus, computer-readable medium and computer-implemental program claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of independent Claims 1, 20, 41 and 43. More particularly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of performing at-a-glance display of a plurality of registered character strings, allowing a character string to be selected by a user from among the displayed character strings, and causing a selected character string to be displayed at a position pointed by a cursor.

Salm is seen to disclose a telephone in which, in an alphanumeric mode, a user presses a character key to form a character string on a display. The user inputs characters one at a time to form the character string, whereby a memory is searched to find data corresponding closest to the input character string. Therefore, Salm merely displays one character string (i.e., the closest corresponding data) and does not display a plurality of

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registered character strings. Moreover, as admitted in the Office Action, Salm fails to teach that the selected character string is caused to be displayed at a position pointed by a cursor.

Ohkado is seen to merely disclose that a character string is edited by moving a cursor to a position within the string to perform the editing operation. When the editing operation is performed, a digit separator (comma) is inserted in the numerical string and the cursor is moved to a position to the right of the edited number. Thus, Ohkado merely teaches placing the cursor at a position where an editing operation is to be performed and then performing the operation via a keyboard. However, Ohkado does not disclose or suggest performing at-a-glance display of a plurality of registered character strings, or causing a selected character string to be displayed at a position pointed by a cursor.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 20, 41 and 43, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable over Salm and Ohkado.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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APPENDIX

<u>VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS</u>

1. (Amended) A character processing method, comprising the steps of:

performing at-a-glance display of a plurality of registered character strings;

allowing a character string to be selected <u>by a user</u> from among the displayed character strings; and

causing the selected character string to be displayed at a position pointed by a cursor.

16. (Amended) A character processing method[,] <u>according to Claim 1, further</u> comprising the steps of:

[performing an at-a-glance display of a plurality of registered character strings:]

allowing selection of a desired character string from among the displayed character strings <u>for an editorial work</u>;

receiving an editorial instruction indicating [an] <u>the</u> editorial work to be effected on the selected character string;

effecting the editorial work in accordance with the editorial instruction on the selected character string; and

updating the registered character strings in accordance with the result of the

editorial work.

20. (Amended) A character processing apparatus, comprising:

at-a-glance displaying means for performing at-a-glance display of a plurality of registered character strings;

selecting means for enabling a character string to be selected by a user from among the displayed character strings; and

displaying means for displaying the selected character string at a position pointed by a cursor.

35. (Amended) A character processing apparatus[,] according to Claim 20, further comprising:

[at-a-glance displaying means for performing an at-a-glance display of a plurality of registered character strings;]

selecting means for allowing selection of a desired character string from among the displayed character strings for an editorial work;

inputting means for enabling input of an editorial instruction indicating [an] the editorial work to be effected on the selected character string;

editing means for effecting the editorial work in accordance with the editorial instruction on the selected character string; and

updating means for updating the registered character strings in accordance with the result of the editorial work.

41. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which are stored[s] program codes for an image processing method, the program codes comprising:

program codes for performing at-a-glance display of a plurality of registered character strings;

program codes for allowing a character string to be selected by a user from among the displayed character strings; and

program codes for causing the selected character string to be displayed at a position pointed by a cursor.

42. (Amended) A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 41, wherein the program codes further comprise [which stores]:

[program codes for performing an at-a-glance display of a plurality of registered character strings;]

program codes for allowing selection of a desired character string out of the displayed character strings for an editorial operation;

program codes for receiving an editorial instruction indicating [an] the editorial operation to be effected on the selected character string;

program codes for effecting the editorial operation in accordance with the editorial

instruction on the selected character string; and

program codes for updating the registered character strings in accordance with the

result of the editorial operation.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph at page 2, lines 3 to 7 as follows:

--Thus, the user when inputting a word, phrase or a short sentence is obliged to

press in a one-by-one fashion all the keys corresponding to characters that constitute such a word,

phrase or the [shirt] short sentence, even when such a word, phrase or short sentence is used

frequently by the user.--

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 7 to 13 as follows:

--A router 1007 serves to connect the LAN 1010 to Internet/intranet 1012. To the

Internet/intranet are connected an image processing apparatus 1020, database server 1021,

WWW server 1022 and e-mail server 1023 which are the same as the image processing apparatus

1001, database server [10002] 1002, WWW server 1006 and the e-mail server 1004.--

Please amend the paragraph at page 10, lines 11 to 14 as follows:

--A CPU [20001] 2001 performs an overall control of a binary image processing

unit by executing various kinds of processing in accordance with programs stored in a RAM

2002 and a ROM 2003.--

Please amend the paragraph at page 11, lines 11 to 23 as follows:

--The HDD 2004 stores a system software program, image data, the registered

word list, etc. It is to be understood that the content of the registered word list will [now] not

disappear even after the power supply is turned off, because the list is stored in the HDD 2004.

Control programs for implementing various kinds of control executed in the image processing

apparatus, other than those stored in the ROM 2003 and the RAM 2002, may be acquired by

being down-loaded from a terminal connected to the LAN 2011 or the WAN 2051, or from a

demountable external storage medium such as a CD-ROM, MO or the like. These externally-

available programs also may be directly used for the controlling purposes without being down-

loaded.--

Please amend the paragraph from page 17, line 13 to page 18, line 9 as follows:

--Fig. 9 shows, by way of example, a setting display screen which enables the user

to set conditions of the "SEND" function. This display screen appears when a "Send Settings"

key 63 on the "SEND" main display screen is pressed. The setting screen includes a subject

input box 92 to be filled by a character string which indicates the subject of an image to be sent

by means of the I-Fax function, e-mail function or the database function and which is to be

attached to the image to be sent. The setting screen also includes a message input box 94 to be

filled by a character string which indicates a [massage] message to be attached to the image to be

sent by means of the I-Fax function, e-mail function or the database function. The setting screen

also includes a reply address input box 96 which is to be filled by a character string indicative of

the address to which the reply to an image sent by the I-Fax or e-mail function is to be directed.

Entry of the character string to these boxes 92, 94 and 96 is performed through a keyboard

display screen which appears in response to pressing of one of a subject input instruction button

"Subject" 91, a message input instruction button "Message" 93 and a reply destination input

instruction button (Reply-To) 95.--

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